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**TESTIMONY SB 796 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT  
FORENSIC EXAMINERS  
THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 4, 2019**

Good Morning Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. I am Mary Jane Williams PhD., RN, current chairperson of the Government Relations Committee and Professor Emeritus, Central Connecticut State University.

I am providing testimony on **RAISED BILL NO. 796 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINERS.**

The Connecticut Nurses' Association is a professional membership association that speaks as a unified voice for nurses across all specialties and practice settings. They provide current information to all nurses across the state through weekly communications and various other outlets. The Association has an American Nurses Credentialing Center approved continuing education unit that provides quality, high level professional development for nurses.

Thank you for adding the Connecticut Nurses' Association membership to this important Advisory. We believe Registered Nurses play a critical role in providing comprehensive and sensitive care to victims of sexual assault that also preserves the custody of physical evidence. CNA is thrilled to contribute to this multidisciplinary advisory ensuring victims have access to care that supports their immediate health needs and preserves their ability to take any necessary action if they choose. In addition, year after year nurses are recognized as the most trusted profession. It is critical that victims have access to professionals that understand and can appropriately address the physical, emotional and legal implications of the incident.

Therefore, I speak in strong support of on **RAISED BILL NO. 796 AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EXAMINERS.**

Thank you for your support of this legislation.

Mary Jane M. Williams, PhD., R.N.

Chair Government Relations, Connecticut Nurses Association